

and is it four and a half years after the trial scheme that the Government is becoming aware of the requirement of a legal backing for such a scheme?

MR. SPEAKER: Is it implementable in a court of law; that is the requirement.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Does it take four and a half years for the Government to take such a decision? Secondly, does the conferment of the issue of an identity card, mean the conferment of citizenship? Does the identity card holder become a citizen of the country, or is it merely a recognition of his residence in the area? That is the most crucial aspect of the issue of the issuance of identity cards in the border areas.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I have made the point very clear what exactly is the objective of the scheme. After the issue of the identity card he does not automatically become a citizen of India. But this, in fact, can be used for identifying all those who are illegally migrating into India. And thereafter whatever action is called can be taken. Those people who are the permanent residents of those areas, they should not be harassed and that is why these identity cards are being issued so that we are able to identify those who are illegally coming into the country.

Kutir Jyoti Yojana in Orissa

*244. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Kutir Jyoti Yojana was started by the Union Government in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the grants provided by the Union Government to the State Electricity Board through the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. for implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether it is proposed to provide

certain concessions to the beneficiaries especially the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). With a view to providing single point light connections to the households of rural families below the poverty line, including harijans and adivasis, a welfare programme known as 'Kutir Jyoti' was initiated by the then Government in 1988-89, all over the country, including in Orissa. Under the scheme which was financed from Central grants during 1988-89 and 1989-90, the task of identifying the beneficiaries was vested with the State Governments concerned. The Rural Electrification Corporation provided, in all, Rs. 167.591 lakhs to the Orissa State Electricity Board under the programme, for releasing 78,905 single point light connections. According to the available information, the State Electricity Board has achieved the above target.

The scheme was not continued after 31.3.1991

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that 78,905 single point light connections have been released in favour of the people living below the poverty line, including these of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. I would like to know if any special concessions have been shown to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Secondly, I would like to know, out of these total number released how many were released in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes people in the State of Orissa, district-wise.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the "Kutir Jyoti" scheme was initiated by the Rajiv Gandhi Government in the year 1988-89. The State Government was given funds in lumpsum and the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the poor were given single point light connection. However the target has been achieved in Orissa. Out of 78905 families 62482 families belong to Scheduled Tribes. Rs. 168 lakh have been spent on it out of which Rs. 166 lakh have been spent in the current year itself. Rs. 1.5 lakh only are left as balance.

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Sir, this programme was implemented in the years 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the Government of India sanctioned grant for free electricity connections to the people living below poverty line. But it is not clear whether the Government will pay the electricity charges for these connections after 1989-90 when it came to an end. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will pay the electricity bills after 1989-90.

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware of the fact that the Central Government provides funds to State Governments in lumpsum. The State Governments at their own level do the billing work and spend money under it. Now, so far as the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 are concerned the V.P. Singh Government came to power in the year 1990 and they discontinued this scheme. Thereafter the Kutir Jyoti Yojana was discontinued from 1990-91. The Eighth Five Year Plan is now under consideration of the Government. The Chief Ministers of all states and the Prime Minister will meet at the National Development Council meeting scheduled to be held on the 23rd and 24th of December. In the course of this meeting decision regarding the issue whether the Kutir Jyoti

Yojana will be implemented or not will be taken.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Minister has stated in his statement that this scheme is discontinued since 31st March, 1991 but he has said that this scheme is discontinued by V.P. Singh Government. This is not correct. In his own statement he has stated that this scheme is discontinued in the current financial year. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the reason for the discontinuation of this scheme and whether the hon. Minister will consider to continue this scheme specially for Orissa where the population below poverty line is more than anywhere else in the country and where forty percent of the population is of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I told you earlier also that there is no financial provision for this scheme from 31.3.1990 onwards and this scheme did not continue after 31.3.1991. You are aware of the fact that the funds sanctioned in 1989 for a certain project are utilized in the year 1990 and subsequently the funds sanctioned in the year 1990 are spent in 1991. Please try to understand this point.

[English]

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: Hon. Speaker, Sir, may I now from the hon. Minister the number and the names of the villages covered under the Kutir Jyoti Yojana in Bolangir district of Orissa in 1990-91 and 1991-92?

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Eighth Five Year Plan is under consideration of Government. Our Government has always been working for the cause of the oppressed and the exploited. We have always worked in the interest of the

waker sections. I am sure that the Government will take immediate action to revive the Kutir Jyoti Scheme.

[English]

Reservations In Employment

*245. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union Territories which have introduced reservation in public employment;

(b) the brief particulars of the scheme of reservation, statewise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the names of States/Union Territories which have not introduced any such scheme; and

(d) whether the Government have drawn the attention of such States/Union Territories to introduce such scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI KJAMALA KUMARI): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Nil

(d) In regard to reservation in services for Socially & Educationally Backward and Other Economically Backward Sections the matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.